



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6

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Memorandum

TO: Advisory Council

DATE: April 9, 2008

FR: James Corless

W.I.: 1611

RE: I-80/Capitol Corridor Interregional Smart Growth Study

Over the next two decades, growth pressures will increase significantly in both the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento regions, specifically along the I-80/Capitol Corridor through Solano, Yolo, Sacramento and Placer counties. As the two regions try to manage this growth through a variety of incentives and planning efforts aimed at promoting more compact development patterns, we are doing so with only a minimal ability to exchange information, demographic data, and lessons learned.

MTC, ABAG, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the Solano Transportation Authority and Caltrans have been working on an interregional planning project to analyze the ways to improve cooperation and coordination along the corridor within the two regions. Specifically, the study has focused on three elements:

1. Interregional transportation and land use models – do current model systems have the capability to factor in the impacts of growth from the neighboring region? What should the two regions do to upgrade current modeling capacities?
2. Interregional transportation and land use planning – what are the transportation and air quality impacts of current regional smart growth planning efforts along the corridor, particularly at the border between the two regions? Would alternative land use strategies produce improved transportation and air quality outcomes?
3. Interregional transportation investments – are investments in I-80 and the Capitol Corridor being strategically planned and coordinated? Are there opportunities to secure additional funding for interregional transportation facilities through better cooperation and coordination?

The study has been guided by an interregional steering committee comprised of staff from the regional agencies, Caltrans, the air districts, and local governments along the corridor, along with representatives from a variety of stakeholder interests. A summary of initial study findings and recommendations in each of the three areas above are included as an attachment to this memo.

MTC staff will brief the committee on further details of the I-80/Capitol Corridor Smart Growth Study at your April 9th meeting. Committee members are also invited to register for an interregional summit hosted by U.C. Davis on Thursday, April 10th from 9am to 1pm (to register visit <http://sacog.org/websites/I80CorridorSummit/>). The summit will highlight some of the initial findings from the study and seek feedback on recommendations for the two regions to strengthen interregional coordination and cooperation.